



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 10 March 2006**

**7225/06**

**ENV 176  
ENER 93  
FISC 39  
ONU 34**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

---

from : General Secretariat

to : Delegations

---

No. prev. doc. : 6661/06 ENV 113 ENER 57 FISC 32 ONU 26

---

Subject : Climate change

- Follow-up to the eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in conjunction with the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 1) (Montreal, 28 November to 9 December 2005)  
= Council conclusions
- 

Delegations will find attached the conclusions adopted by the (Environment) Council on 9 March 2006.

**Follow-up to the eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in conjunction with the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 1) (Montreal, 28 November to 9 December 2005)**

**- Council conclusions -**

The Council of the European Union,

1. STRESSES its strong commitment to make progress in tackling the problem of climate change, most recently expressed by the European Council in December 2005;
2. strongly WELCOMES the positive and forward-looking Montreal Action Plan, resulting from the eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“the Convention”) and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 1) (Montreal, 28 November – 9 December 2005), especially the adoption of the Marrakesh Accords, including the compliance regime, the improvement of the operation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in particular the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI), the adoption of the five-year work programme on adaptation as well as further action within the framework of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol; also NOTES with appreciation the start of the process of discussing issues related to deforestation in developing countries, which contributes to about 20% of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions;
3. in particular, WELCOMES the decision to initiate the consideration of further commitments for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention for the period beyond 2012 in accordance with Article 3(9) of the Kyoto Protocol and the decision to engage in a dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention to exchange experiences and analyse strategic approaches;

4. HOLDS the view that both processes should be guided by the ultimate objective of the Convention: stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner; REITERATES its view that in order to meet this objective, overall global mean surface temperature increase should not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial levels and that significant global emission reductions will be necessary in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; NOTES that this will require global greenhouse gas emissions to peak within two decades, followed by substantial reductions in the order of at least 15% and perhaps by as much as 50% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels; NOTES that failure to achieve such reductions urgently would lead to an increased risk of abrupt climate change; IS CONFIDENT that the Montreal Action Plan provides the appropriate means to discuss with all parties ways and means to achieve this objective;
  
5. EMPHASISES the need to ensure the crucial role of a global carbon market and the continuity and effective functioning of the flexible mechanisms to deliver the necessary deep emission cuts in a cost-effective manner and to stimulate development, deployment and transfer of climate-friendly technologies, practises and processes; in this context, RECALLS the need to address long-term certainty as part of the review of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and its intention to establish links with other emissions trading schemes to develop an efficient global emissions trading market;

6. RECALLS that the December 2004 and March 2005 (Environment) Council and the 2005 Spring European Council initiated the development of a medium and long-term EU strategy to combat climate change, consistent with not exceeding the 2°C objective; without prejudging new approaches for differentiation between Parties in a future fair and flexible framework, STRESSES its intention to explore with other Parties strategies for achieving necessary emission reductions and REAFFIRMS that, in this context, reduction pathways by the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020 compared to the baseline envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol, and by 2050, in the spirit of the conclusions of the March 2005 (Environment) Council, should be considered; in this context, LOOKS FORWARD to the Commission's further analysis of benefits and costs of greenhouse gas reduction strategies;
7. IS OF THE VIEW that, when considering with other Parties further commitments for Annex I Parties, a number of other issues will need to be explored, and LOOKS FORWARD to identifying these issues in time for the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 3(9) of the Kyoto Protocol and with a view to informing the review process under Article 9(2) of the Protocol; EMPHASISES the need to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment periods; LOOKS FORWARD to a successful discussion in the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 3(9) of the Kyoto Protocol;
8. NOTES that greenhouse gas emissions from Annex I Parties that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol represented only some 30% of global emissions in 2000, that the EU share was only 14% of global emissions in 2000, and that these two shares are expected to decrease as a proportion of global emissions over coming decades; CONCLUDES that to be most effective in tackling climate change, strengthened further actions by Annex I Parties must form part of a global effort by all parties in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities to enhance the implementation of the Convention and LOOKS FORWARD to a successful dialogue on long-term cooperative action;

9. UNDERLINES the commitment of the European Community and its Member States to meeting their respective Kyoto Protocol targets, as confirmed in the reports on demonstrable progress by the European Community and its Member States listed in Annex I to the Convention in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Kyoto Protocol; LOOKS FORWARD to the outcomes of the second European Climate Change Programme; IS AWARE that the implementation of additional measures is needed to reach the Community's Kyoto target;
  
10. REITERATES the importance of strengthening the EU' s dialogue and technological cooperation with other countries and regions, including action on both the development and the diffusion of new and existing climate-friendly technologies and the role of the Kyoto mechanisms, and through cooperation with the Russian Federation on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the implementation of the partnerships already launched with *inter alia* India and China on climate and energy and the development of further partnerships with all major energy-consuming countries complementing international cooperation under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol;
  
11. UNDERLINES the need to exploit the synergies between the promotion of energy security, sustainable energy supply, innovation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to ensure consistency between energy and climate issues, both internally and in the EU' s external relations and in its international and development cooperation, in order to move to a low-carbon future; NOTES that in May 2006 the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is expected to review the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change to prepare for policy decisions in 2007 which can promote *inter alia* technological innovation and climate-friendly investments;

12. REAFFIRMS the EU's commitment to support the efficient and effective functioning of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular the CDM; in this context, WELCOMES the total pledge of US\$ 8,188,050 which has been announced at Montreal to support the near-term funding needs of the CDM; RECONFIRMS its intention, on the basis of the statement made at Montreal, to continue providing adequate financial support for the CDM as well as for Joint Implementation (JI) and the implementation of the International Transaction Log (ITL) in 2007 and URGES other Parties to do likewise;
13. REITERATES that since climate change is already occurring and its impacts are already being felt and are even intensifying, adaptation is a necessary complement to mitigation policies and, in this context, LOOKS FORWARD to the further development and implementation of the five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; ENCOURAGES all countries to integrate adaptation into relevant decision-making processes; REAFFIRMS the need to operationalise the Adaptation Fund which will promote measures to facilitate adaptation by supporting concrete adaptation projects and programmes and assisting developing countries which are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the cost of adaptation.
-